

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Cuba

Orig Bundy - 11:20

→ Gen. Clifton

September 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR Mr. McGeorge Bundy
Special Assistant to the President

FILE

Here is the Cuban question and proposed answer for the Defense press conference's book. The book has already gone over, with a statement that the answer to this question would be supplied later, so the matter is in your hands.

Question. A Miami newspaper the other day stated that you had directed the Pentagon to cut down on restrictions on the enlistment of Cubans in the U. S. Armed Forces and enlist some 5,000. Is this true? And if so, what steps has the Defense Department taken to comply with your directive?

Answer: The story is not correct. The Defense Department has, I understand, been preparing a plan which would make it less difficult for Cuban Nationals who wish to enlist in our own Armed Forces to do so, by permitting them to take their basic training in all-Cuban units and in the Spanish language. I do not know that there has been any estimate of the number of Cubans who may choose to avail themselves of this opportunity.

Adam Yarmolinsky